

November 4, 2004

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Prepared by Annie M. Talley

Tejash Patel, Primary Examiner  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Patent Application Number 10/777,279  
Art Unit 3765

RECEIVED

NOV 15 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Mr. Patel:

Thank you for your help over the phone. I have researched all of the patent numbers that you suggested and have rewritten the section on prior art and made a list of all the references cited.

I am hoping that by re-wording claim 1 to include the fact that this is a suspender to be worn over the torso between a short blouse and low cut pants that it will depart from Yost by identifying where this particular suspender is to be worn. In other words, it's NOT a stocking support. In addition, this design and where it is worn imparts an aesthetic quality not accomplished by the stocking support. It helps create an optical effect of trimming the waistline. (Something a lot of women would appreciate!)

As I am aware, the wording of the patent law regarding "obviousness" by another skilled in the art is a subjective determination and a very difficult judgement on your part. In researching this project I became aware of the fact that design and utility of things such as suspenders are very much established by the fashion trends during the period the invention was created. For example, #6,279,171 B1 the chain that decorates/supports a halter top and the "pressure fasteners" in #6449,775 B1 are unique in that 100 years ago this would not have been conceivable.

I have searched fashion magazines and internet sites and have not seen a suspender of this type anywhere designed specifically for the torso (to be completely visible) and truly believe it would be a marketable item. The mini blouse and low cut pants seem to be here to stay for awhile and knowing that this suspender was patented it would add much encouragement to taking the next step.

Enclosed are the revisions as well as a copy of the art mentioned in the background section.

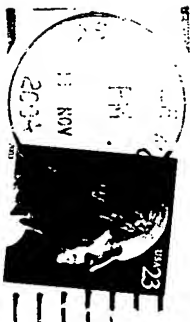
I appreciate your help and if you can see any small changes in wording that would enhance the patentability of this please feel free to advise! Please mail all correspondence to David Gilliam.

Thanks again -  
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